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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SOLOMONT'S JANUARY 27, 2010, MEETING  
WITH SPANISH KING JUAN CARLOS

Classified By: Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, Reasons 1.4(b),(d)

¶1. (C) The Ambassador presented his credentials to King Juan Carlos January 27, 2010. After the presentation, the King pulled the Ambassador aside for a 20-minute talk. The King said he was pleased the Ambassador had arrived. He stressed that he wanted Spain to be better known in the U.S. and held in higher regard. He said Spain is an important ally for the U.S. and should have the same sort of close relationship enjoyed by France, Germany, and the UK. The King noted that the U.S. and Spain enjoy strong military to military relations and cited the bases at Rota and Moron. The King even made reference to physical improvements being made at Rota which will make it possible for U.S. aircraft carriers to go pier-side there.

¶2. (C) In that regard, the King emphasized that a U.S.-EU Summit hosted in Spain during its EU presidency was of first importance. He said he would raise the issue in his meeting with President Obama February 17 in Washington. The King invited the Ambassador to offer suggestions and advice regarding his meeting with the President.

¶3. (C) The Ambassador assured the King that he understands Spain's views on the summit and has conveyed them to Washington. He noted that he had already met with President Zapatero and several of the key members of the cabinet, and they had all stressed the importance of the summit. The Ambassador explained that the decision rested with the White House and noted that 2010 was likely to be a busy and demanding year for the President. Nevertheless, he assured the King that the USG views its relationship with Europe as second to none. The Ambassador added that the King has many friends in Washington, including Secretary Clinton and NSA Jones. The Ambassador said that President Obama spoke warmly of Spain when he met with him prior to leaving Washington, and that the Ambassador feels fortunate to arrive in Spain at a time when relations are improving. He hopes to be part of furthering that process.

¶4. (C) Comment: The story of the still unscheduled summit was in the Spanish press today and the connection was made to President Zapatero's and the King's visits. For better or worse, the Spanish have crawled way out on a limb regarding the summit, and now both the King and Zapatero feel personally invested in ensuring it takes place.  
SOLOMONT